

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 22, 2004 LB 602

of economic reasons. We had slaves for economic reasons, Andrew. How about this one: There's a dehumanizing effort, Andrew, I don't think you understand that. We didn't think that those people were human. There were certain people that didn't believe that they were human. How about that for an answer? What does an eight-year-old, how does he respond to that? I didn't have it on the tip of my tongue. How about the states' rights issue? How about the constitutional issue? Constitutionally, we had a right to...in certain areas of the country, to keep other people enslaved. Now, that's what the law of our land said. That's what the judiciary system said. Did that make it right? Does an eight-year-old understand that? I submit that there's an analogy here, okay? Maybe a loose one, but I submit that there's an analogy, the dehumanizing effect. In this country we're creating human beings in a petri dish and destroying them. Any question about that? Sure, it's debatable. I don't know that I have a question about that. We're creating human beings, an embryo, in a petri dish and destroying it. The economic equivalent, medical technology, where are we going, the breakthroughs in medical evolution, how are we going to get there? I've got an article here in the...from the New York Times, January 18. Dr. Walter M. Robinson, division of medical ethics at Harvard Medical School. It didn't really...he's a little worried about this whole thing. He says, a little knowledge of history of science tells us that advances are generally not planned and can't be predicted, but come from accidents and serendipitous moments. I don't know if he's right or wrong. I mean, that's up for debate as well. The states' rights issue, how do you make that one with this case? A lot of people say we should wait for the federal government to make a decision here. I don't know where to go with that one either. Let me tell you this: 130 years from now--the Civil War documentary, old footage, 130-140 years ago, we're dealing with--130 years from now, I don't want my grandson sitting with his son on his knee and having to answer a question: Hey, Dad, why did we kill human beings 130 years ago, innocent...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: ...human beings 130 years ago? That's a question I don't want him to have to answer. I had to answer